



SJR 32 Subcommittee on Medical Liability Insurance

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

58th Montana Legislature

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BRENT CROMLEY
DUANE GRIMES
DEBBIE SHEA

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PRESS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Legislature's Subcommittee on Medical Liability Insurance will hold its third meeting of the interim in Billings on November 16 and 17. The purpose of the meeting is to carry out the intent of Senate Joint Resolution No. 32, which is to study medical liability insurance, recently skyrocketing premiums for medical liability insurance, and decreasing availability of liability insurance at any reasonable price.

On Sunday evening, Nov. 16, the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Mary Alice Fortin Conference Room at the Deaconess Billings Clinic. The first agenda item and principal topic will be testimony from invited doctors, hospital administrators, and others about their experiences with medical liability insurance and what can or should be done to mitigate negative consequences of increasing premiums and declining availability. There are a number of individuals from across the state who have been invited to testify via videoconferencing technology. As time allows, others wishing to testify, whether or not invited by the Subcommittee, will be given an opportunity to speak.

On Monday morning, Nov. 17, beginning at 8 a.m. in the Mansfield Health Education Center at St. Vincent's Hospital, testimony from invited individuals will again be the first and primary order of business. Other individuals will also be allowed to testify as time allows.

Subsequent to the testimony on Monday, the Subcommittee will review the results of three separate surveys conducted, respectively, by representatives of the Montana Hospital Association, the Montana Medical Association, and the American Insurance Association.

Following a lunch break, the Monday afternoon session will include an overview of the Montana Medical Legal Panel and a staff briefing on comparative medical liability law and liability alternatives among the states. The meeting concludes with a work session that will focus on specific medical liability problems and the factors that are causing or exacerbating the problems.

The public is invited to attend the meeting at either site.

For additional information, please contact the Subcommittee's chairman, Rep. George Golie (406-727-3245) or the Subcommittee's lead staff, Dave Bohyer (406-444-3064).

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